

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-3 stand rejected, with claims 4-10 objected to. Claims 4-6 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice, claims 1, 7 and 9 amended and newly written claim 11 offered for consideration. Accordingly, claims 1-3, 7 and 9-11 are the only claims remaining in this application.

The Examiner's acknowledgment of applicants' claim for foreign priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is very much appreciated. However, it is noted that applicants submitted a completed PTO Form 1449 concurrent with the filing of this national stage entry application making of record the prior art cited in the PCT prosecution. Applicants would appreciate the Examiner's considering the prior art submitted and noted on the PTO Form 1449 and forwarding a copy of the signed and dated acknowledgment.

Claims 4-10 stand objected to under Rule 75 as being in improper form. Claims 4-6 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice and claims 7 and 9 amended to overcome their improper multiple dependency. Accordingly, remaining claims 7 and 9 are not believed objectionable under Rule 75 and consideration of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC §103 as unpatentable over Strohacker (U.S. Patent 6,320,986) in view of Gale (U.S. Patent 5,737,038). As noted in applicants' amended claim 1, applicants' invention includes one step of a succession of read cycles

of the stored strings beginning with the string for the highest waiting, i.e. the string with the most significant bits.

The Strohacker generally teaches preprocessing pixel data for a specific data compression scheme. The Examiner does not indicate how or where Strohacker teaches applicants claimed reading out method step. The Examiner suggests that this is taught in Strohacker at column 5, lines 4-9 (Official Action page 3, lines 16-18).

However, nothing in those lines associated with the Strohacker reference have anything to do with the manner in which strings are read out, let alone being read out starting with the most significant bits. Should the Examiner believe Strohacker to contain any discussion of this basic aspect of applicants' invention, he is respectfully requested to point out specifically where this is shown or taught.

The Gale reference teaches a method of reducing artifacts in a displayed image by varying when differently waited bit planes are applied for differently colored pixels. Figure 3 shows the conventional approach where a frame comprises bit planes 2, 1 and 0 in decreasing order of waiting. As taught in Gale, this method leads to image artifacts, so in one embodiment (Figure 4), the bit planes are staggered with respect to one another and in another embodiment (Figure 5), the order of writing is changed for each colored pixel.

However, there is no disclosure in Gale of any method whereby bit planes are read out in order of decreasing waiting in a plurality of read-out cycles. Again, this significant

operational aspect of applicants' claimed invention is completely absent from the Gale reference. Should the Examiner contend that it is present, he is respectfully requested to point out exactly where such teaching is contained in the Gale reference.

In view of the above, neither Strohacker nor Gale contain any disclosure of at least one significant aspect of applicants' claimed invention, i.e. a succession of read cycles of the stored strings starting with the string having the most significant bits. Because neither reference teaches this claimed method step, the combination of the two references cannot anticipate or render obvious the method of claim 1 which includes this step. As a result, there is no *prima facie* case of obviousness in view of the Strohacker and Gale combination of references and any further rejection thereunder is respectfully traversed.

Applicants also offer newly written claim 11 which also includes the step of reading out the bit planes in a series of read-out cycles starting with the binary string having the highest weighting bit plane, i.e. the string with the most significant bits. Because this feature is missing from both the Strohacker and Gale references, newly written claim 11 is clearly patentable thereover and entry and consideration of this claim is respectfully requested.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that remaining claims 1-3, 7 and 9-11 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one

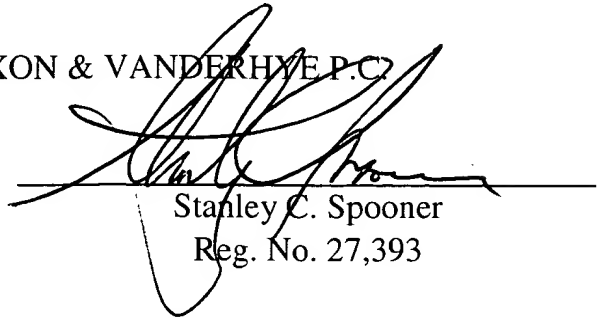
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or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact applicant's  
undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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